

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)**

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING: May 4, 2009

**University of Salisbury
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Maryland
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Virginia Busby
Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh
David Holland
Cornelius Allen Red Deer
Guy Wells

Commissioners Absent

Chair Auriel A. Fenwick
Vice Chair Thomas W. Windsor II
Wanda Y. Lee

MCIA Staff

E. Keith Colston
Agnes M. Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: COMMISSIONER GUY WELLS-Meeting commenced at 7:36 p.m.

II. REMARKS BY JANET DUDLEY-ESHBACH – PRESIDENT FOR SALISBURY UNIVERSITY: Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach welcomed the Commission and spoke about her excitement when she heard the Commission had agreed to meet on the campus. She informed the Commission that she is working very hard to recruit and retain a diverse group of faculty, staff and students at Salisbury University. She is also working to increase awareness on all different diversity issues. Dr. Dudley-Eshbach spoke about the faculty present that teach Native American literature, culture, music, etc. who is also excited about the Commission meeting on campus. The very fact that the Commission is at Salisbury University shows commitment and introduces the campus to the Native American community and raises awareness of some of the issue facing the Native American community. She also noted that the Native American culture is an important part of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Virginia, etc. She's learning a little bit about the Native American history from her retired husband who is taking a course at Warwick Community College. She also spoke about the Capacity Building Workshop for the Native American community hosted by the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives which is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Salisbury University. She spoke about her appreciation on what Governor O'Malley is doing to bring awareness to the underrepresented communities. She thanked SU student Ms. Debbie Henry who brought the MCIA to her attention. She let the Commission know that they are always welcome

to Salisbury University campus. She introduced the Dean of the Seidel School of Teacher Education and Professional Studies Dr. Dennis Pataniczek who they stole from a university in Florida eight years ago who in his short time in Maryland has become a leader among the deans of education in the entire State of Maryland.

Dr. Dennis Pataniczek spoke and read a letter he received from SU student Debbie Henry. Dr. Pataniczek introduced the Salisbury University staff. Dr. Pataniczek told the Commission that diversity is not a problem to be solved or an issue to be addressed but it is a celebration of who we are. Diversity makes us stronger. We can do more together. He spoke about how the faculty integrates diversity in everything they do. There is diversity in every class at Salisbury University. Dr. Pataniczek said that there are four areas of standards that are met when it comes to diversity:

1. Diversity must be included in all aspects of the curriculum
2. Teacher candidates must have experiences with diverse teacher candidates. Student body must be diverse
3. Teacher candidates must work with diverse faculty
4. Teacher candidate must have experiences with diverse students in P12 schools

He asked the Commission to invite the students to culture and educational events because they need that exposure. He also asked Commission to encourage the children to consider careers in teaching. He said that Salisbury University has the best teaching program in Maryland.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON

IV. REMARKS BY WENDELL K. SUTTON – ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS: Mr. Wendell K. Sutton let the Commission know that Native American Businesses can prosper with the Governor's Office. Every five years they do a disparity study. The State goal is to have 25% minority participation. In FY 2008 Maryland spent \$6.1 Billion Dollars on contracts. Out of this amount 1.3 Billion or 20% of the contracts was awarded to minority businesses. Mr. Sutton informed the Commission that since 2006 the Native American contract awards have increased by 349.5%. he asked the Commission to encourage business to become MBE certified. He also noted that there will be opportunities with BRAC. There will be 30,000 new jobs. The Governor's Office of Minority Affairs number one goal is to assist the Native American community.

V. REMARKS BY MARCIE TAYLOR-THOMA-SOCIAL STUDY COORDINATOR FOR MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Ms. Marcie Taylor-Thoma spoke about the concern from the Commission as to whether or not Social Studies include Native American topics and issues in history. She informed the Commission that it does beginning in Pre-K. The second concern is whether or not the Native American curriculum is being taught in the schools. She noted that it is being taught in the voluntary State curriculum under instruction. Ms. Taylor-Thoma told the Commission to go to the MDK12 website under voluntary instruction and you can go to any of the disciplines where you can start as early as Pre-K. The curriculum is not only about geography but also about diversity. Ms. Taylor-Thoma told the Commission that there is diversity training in all counties. Ms. Taylor-Thoma noted that the State of Maryland do

not have local control. The Commission needs to go to the principal, superintendents or the legal way.

There was a discussion about a curriculum started with the Vienna school about the John Smith Trail.

Ms. Taylor-Thoma also informed the Commission about a five year Civil Literacy Commission.

Mr. Jason Larny spoke about a grant that he is applying for to open a Native American center in Salisbury.

There was a discussion about materials available.

Ms. Sherry Majors spoke about a mural drawn by one of the earlier members.

Mr. Rico Newman asked if the State had any minimum “standards of learning”? Ms. Taylor-Thoma answered yes MISAP. Ms. Taylor-Thoma suggested since the curriculum isn’t mandated maybe the Commission can look for collaboration.

- V. **UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS:HB-691:** Mr. Josh Russin, GOCI informed the Commission that HB-691 passed through the House. He will be meeting with Delegate Murphy to discuss the petitions that will be forwarded. Some of the petitions have been in the State for over a decade. Executive Director Colston noted that this was not something the MCIA had any control of. The intent of HB-691 was to change the date from 1790 to 1900.

REPATRIATION: Mr. Newman asked how the Maryland Historical Trust plan on writing regulations and how will this reflect the Indian community with the repatriation. Commissioner Virginia Busby said that a answer is needed at the next meeting. Commissioner Busby informed the Commission that the next Repatriation Committee meeting will be on May 21 or 22 in Annapolis. This is a critical meeting.

VI. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:**

September 19 and 20, 2009 Annual Fall Festival in Vienna Maryland

Chief Rudy Hall announced that the Water Trails officially opens on Saturday, May 9, 2009. There is a canoe trail or water trail and scenic tour

Executive Colston told the Commission to continue to attend cultural events but to let the office know.

Mr. Russin announced again about the Capacity Building Workshop scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Salisbury University

Executive Director Colston asked the community to spread the word about the Capacity Building Workshop.

Ms. Susan Driscoll elaborated on the Capacity Building Workshop which will include resources from organizations, on the spot interviews, critique of resumes, etc.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER DAVID HOLLAND

SECONDED MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER KATHY FITZHUGH

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.